



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 76

February Session, 2016

Substitute House Bill No. 5457

House of Representatives, March 21, 2016

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. RITTER of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL HEALTH DIRECTORS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-244 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

3 On and after October 1, 2010, any person nominated to be the
4 director of health shall (1) be a licensed physician and hold a degree in
5 public health from an accredited school, college, university or
6 institution, or (2) hold a graduate degree in public health from an
7 accredited school, college or institution. The educational requirements
8 of this section shall not apply to any director of health nominated or
9 otherwise appointed as director of health prior to October 1, 2010. The
10 board may specify in a written agreement with such director the term
11 of office, which shall not exceed three years, salary and duties required
12 of and responsibilities assigned to such director in addition to those
13 required by the general statutes or the Public Health Code, if any. [He]
14 Such director shall be removed during the term of such written
15 agreement only for cause after a public hearing by the board on

16 charges preferred, of which reasonable notice shall have been given.
 17 [He shall devote his entire time to the performance of such duties as
 18 are required of directors of health by the general statutes or the Public
 19 Health Code and as the board specifies in its written agreement with
 20 him;] Such director shall serve in a full-time capacity, shall not engage
 21 in private practice and shall act as secretary and treasurer of the board,
 22 without the right to vote. [He] Such director shall give to the district a
 23 bond with a surety company authorized to transact business in the
 24 state, for the faithful performance of [his] such director's duties as
 25 treasurer, in such sum and upon such conditions as the board requires.
 26 [He] Such director shall be the executive officer of the district
 27 department of health. Full-time employees of a city, town or borough
 28 health department at the time such city, town or borough votes to form
 29 or join a district department of health shall become employees of such
 30 district department of health. Such employees may retain their rights
 31 and benefits in the pension system of the town, city or borough by
 32 which they were employed and shall continue to retain their active
 33 participating membership therein until retired. Such employees shall
 34 pay into such pension system the contributions required of them for
 35 their class and membership. Any additional employees to be hired by
 36 the district or any vacancies to be filled shall be filled in accordance
 37 with the rules and regulations of the merit system of the state of
 38 Connecticut and the employees who are employees of cities, towns or
 39 boroughs which have adopted a local civil service or merit system
 40 shall be included in their comparable grade with fully attained
 41 seniority in the state merit system. Such employees shall perform such
 42 duties as are prescribed by the director of health. In the event of the
 43 withdrawal of a town, city or borough from the district department, or
 44 in the event of a dissolution of any district department, the employees
 45 thereof, originally employed therein, shall automatically become
 46 employees of the appropriate town, city or borough's board of health.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2016	19a-244
-----------	-----------------	---------

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill does not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities. It changes existing statute by: (1) requiring directors of local health districts to serve in a full-time capacity, instead of devoting their "entire time," and (2) prohibits them from engaging in private practice.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5457*****AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL HEALTH DIRECTORS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the director of a local health district to serve in a full-time capacity, instead of devoting his or her “entire time” to performing the duties of the position, as is required under current law. It also prohibits the director from engaging in private practice.

Existing law generally requires this of a municipal health director in a town with a population of at least 40,000 for five consecutive years. But the director may serve part-time if the town also designates him or her as the chief medical advisor for its public schools.

By law, a municipal or district health director must (1) be a licensed physician and hold a public health degree from an accredited school, college, university, or institution or (2) hold a graduate public health degree from an accredited school, college, or institution.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016

BACKGROUND***Local Health Departments***

Connecticut has 73 local health departments, of which fifty-three are full time departments and 20 are part-time. The full-time departments include 33 individual municipal health departments and 20 health district departments (multi-town departments serving from two to 20 towns).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/07/2016)